

Supplement to
INFORMATION LETTER
NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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Relation of 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program to Vegetables for Canning

The following statement has been prepared by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in order that growers and canners may have a clear picture of the relation of the 1942 AAA program to the 1942 production goals for certain vegetables for canning.

Changes in the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program designed to make possible a greater production of the "foods for freedom" including vegetables for canning demonstrate that the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's programs are continually geared to meet the changing needs of agriculture and the Nation.

In 1942, the Agricultural Conservation Program is based upon the maintenance of a minimum soil-conserving acreage rather than production within a maximum soil-depleting acreage. The program:

1. Provides for positive soil conservation measures on a minimum acreage of the farm.

2. Enables each farmer to use his remaining cropland acreage to whatever crops will make the greatest contribution to the Farm Defense program. Only in the case of the following surplus crops are allotments provided: corn (in the commercial corn area), cotton, peanuts (other than peanuts crushed for oil), potatoes, rice, tobacco, and wheat.

In the past, what was termed a "total" soil-depleting allotment was established to stabilize the acreage of all soil-depleting crops as a step toward greater soil conservation. Farmers had the opportunity to earn payments for keeping within this "total" allotment their acreages of crops classified as soil-depleting. This included such crops as wheat, barley, cotton, vegetables and many others.

In order to provide more effective control over crops that had surplus problems, however, what are termed "special" allotments were determined within the "total" allotment for such crops as wheat, corn, cotton, potatoes, edible peanuts, and in some areas, vegetables. This meant the farmer who produced special crops, to be eligible for payment, could plant up to his special allotments if

he wished and devote the rest of his "total" allotment to any other soil-depleting crop.

Early in 1941, however, when sharp increases in certain vegetables for canning became necessary, changes were made in the program designed to exempt these particular vegetables for canning from the soil-depleting classifications. Because increased demand arose for several other commodities, this 1941 change was carried a step farther in the 1942 program. Provision for setting up soil-conserving goals on each farm was substituted for the total soil-depleting allotment. This action makes way for increased production of such needed foods as vegetables for canning. At the same time the use of the soil-conserving acreage goal for each farm continues the principle of soil conservation and is directed toward the maintenance of strong soil resources on America's farms.

Special crop acreage allotments, however, are continued for the "special" crops listed under item 2, above. Also continued as in the past are the payments offered for carrying out soil-building practices within the limits of the soil-building allowance determined for the farm.

The soil-conserving goal approach is being worked out under four different plans and one or more of these is in effect in each State, but only one within the same county. These plans apply only to farms which have one or more of the special crop acreage allotments.

The essential element in each of these minimum conserving requirements is that there must be full compliance with the plan as one of the conditions to receiving full payment for planting within the special crop allotments. The numbers on the accompanying map indicate the areas to which each plan is applicable. In those States where two plans are applicable, inquiry should be directed to the State office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration requesting the names of the counties where each plan applies. The basic outline of each of the plans follows:

Plan No. 1

This plan, which applies to the largest part of the country, requires that 20% of the cropland in the farm must be devoted exclusively to one or more specified soil-conserving land uses throughout the 1942 crop year. Some of the soil-conserving uses which will qualify under

this provision are such crops as perennial grasses, legumes, cover crops, green manure crops, and Sudan grass, millet, or annual rye grass for pasture. There are some other uses not listed here which are applicable in certain areas. The State or county office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration should be consulted for the list of particular uses applicable in any county.

Under this plan, if the producer elects not to plant his permitted acreages of the crops under special allotment, he could plant as much as 80% of his cropland to vegetables for canning.

There is in this one exception applicable to small farms: farms with less than 20 acres of cropland may meet the soil-conserving requirement in whole or in part by growing winter cover crops or green manure crops for part of the year and following them with what are normally considered soil-depleting crops for the balance of the year.

In some of the intensive vegetable areas, such as those on the eastern seaboard, where this plan is applicable, a farmer who has more than 20 acres of cropland may meet this conserving requirement by growing green manure or cover crops regardless of what other use he makes of the cropland during the 1942 crop year. On any such farm, however, the percentage of cropland required to be devoted to conserving uses becomes 30% instead of 20%. In these areas it would be possible to devote 70% of the cropland to vegetables for the entire year and also to grow vegetables on the remaining 30% of the cropland following a green manure or cover crop.

In all areas double cropping of vegetables on the same land is permitted.

Plan No. 2

This plan (see map) provides that a minimum of 25% of the cropland on the farm shall be devoted sometime during the year to erosion-resisting crops and land uses. These uses are similar to those listed under Plan No. 1 but the State or county office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration should be consulted for the uses applicable in a particular area.

In much of the area using Plan No. 2 it is possible to grow canning crops on all of the land during most of the crop year provided at least 25% of the cropland is devoted during part of the year to erosion-resisting uses such as green manure or cover crops.

Plan No. 3

This provides that an individual farm plan be worked out by each farmer with the assistance of his local committee, such plan to provide that there be carried out on the various parts of the farm necessary soil-building practices needed for the proper balance among the various kinds of crops and providing for the elimination of

erosion hazards, for the restoration of the necessary humus to the soil and for other good land uses. Since this plan, however, is applicable to only a limited area in the Southeast, it is probably not of major importance in relation to the national production of canning crops.

Plan No. 4

This plan requires that the soil-building allowance for the farm must be earned in order to avoid deductions from the special crop allotment payments. Under this plan there would be complete freedom to expand canning crop acreage, provided that on each farm a minimum amount of good soil conservation is carried out.

The following outlines and highlights the principal differences between the 1941 and the 1942 programs as related specifically to commercial vegetables.

Soil-Depleting Classification for Vegetables

1941 Program:

In the original announcement of the 1941 program, all vegetables were considered as soil-depleting. After the April 3rd announcement requesting sharp increases in certain vegetables for canning, changes in the program were made which exempted these particular vegetables for canning from the soil-depleting classification.

1942 Program:

In the 1942 program, since there are no soil-depleting allotments applicable to vegetables of any kind, the question as to whether or not specific vegetable crops are classified as soil-depleting is not applicable.

Acreage Allotments

1941 Program:

In many areas, in 1941, there were commercial vegetable allotments and in other areas total soil-depleting allotments. After April 3, certain exceptions were made which removed any acreage restrictions on the canning vegetables for which acreage increases had been requested.

1942 Program:

This year there are no commercial vegetable or total soil-depleting allotments anywhere in the country.

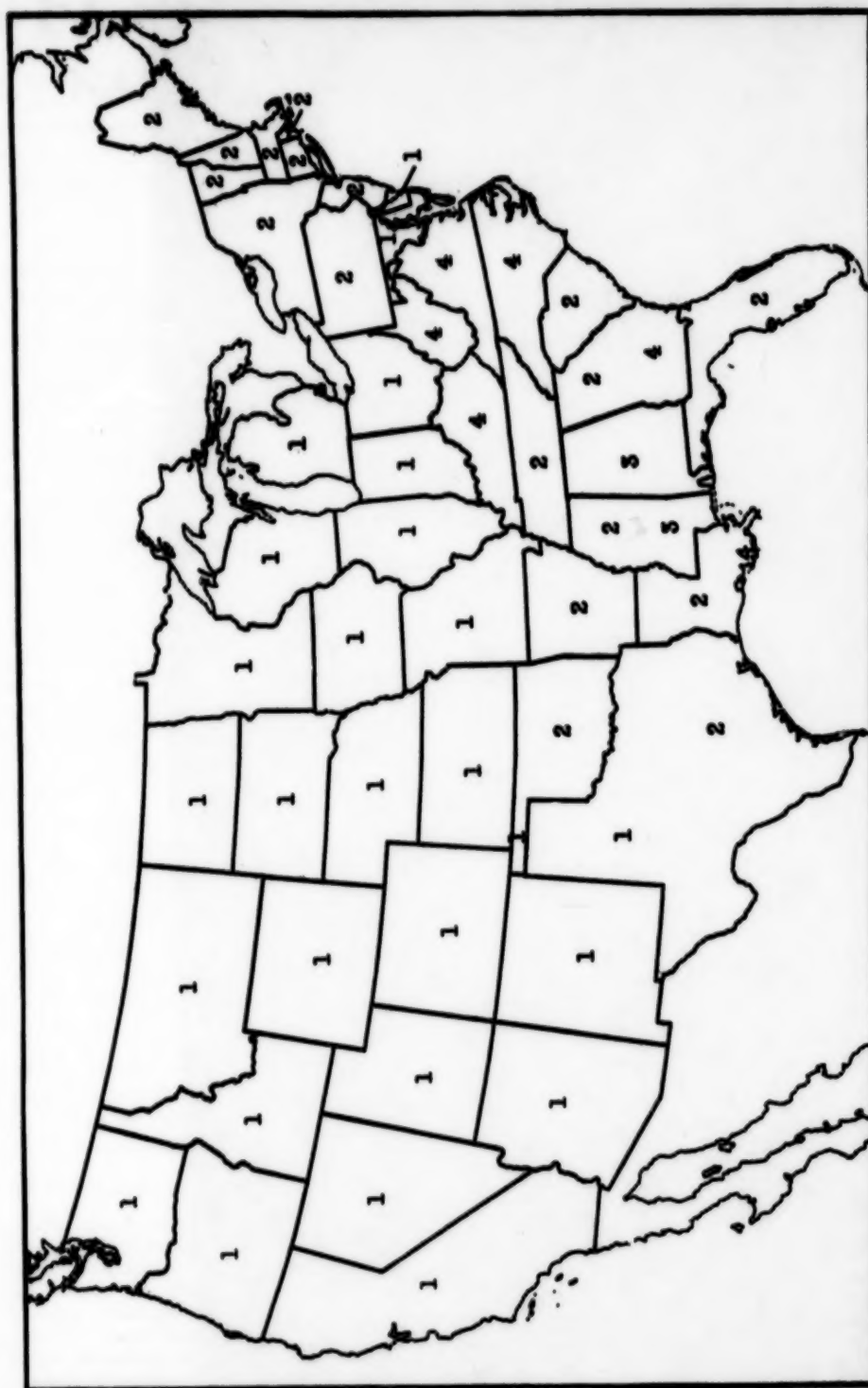
Minimum Conserving Requirements

1941 Program:

Last year there were four different minimum conserving plans which were used in various areas in which there were no total soil-depleting allotments. Compliance with these plans was one of the requirements for full payment in connection with special crop allotments.

1942 Program:

Since there are no total soil-depleting allotments anywhere in the country in 1942, the minimum conserving plan approach has been made applicable in all areas.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Numbers indicate minimum soil-conserving plan in effect for 1942 program. For States with two numbers, county designations are listed in State Handbooks.